

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday 04 November 2022

Club News

At a recent IRTS committee meeting the topic of storing and presenting society documentation (historic and current) was discussed, a decision was taken to form a working group to explore this topic in greater detail and develop a proposal that the society can implement. This group will be asked to evaluate the type of information we have and explore the options that best suit the society going forward. We are calling for the assistance of IRTS members with a background or experience in digital storage to join this working group and assist in scoping out possible solutions. Please drop an email to archive /at/ irts.ie to get involved.

The November meeting of the Galway Radio Experimenters Club EI4GRC will take place tomorrow night, Monday the 07 of November at 8:00 p.m. sharp at The Menlo Park Hotel, Terryland, Headford Road, Galway, eircode H91 E98N. There will also be virtual access to the meeting, please contact the Club Secretary via an email to secretary /at/ galwayradio.com for access details. The club website is www.galwayradio.com and anyone is welcome to come to our club nights or contact the secretary for more information.

Club Secretary Philip MiØMSO/EI8GPB informs that the West Tyrone ARC will resume regular monthly meetings on Wednesday at 19:30 in Strathroy Community Centre, Omagh, BT79 7XE. To contact the club via email, write to info /at/ wtarc.org.uk .

The South Dublin Radio Club will host a technical talk, in person, not live streamed. On Tuesday, the 8th of November, at 8 p.m. sharp Mark EI4ACB will be giving an informal talk on mini computers and interfacing to voice repeaters. Using a raspberry pi and an MMDVM interface he will explain how the setup can be used for repeater linking. Visitors and those with no previous knowledge are welcome to attend.

Class Foxtrot, the National Short Wave Listeners Club's current HAREC training course, has started on Thursday. 52 were in attendance, out of 66 who have completed the registration. There are still a few more registering late. As of today, the NSWLC has 142 members, all of whom are also current members of the IRTS. The course takes 24 weeks, and will end on the 4th of May 2023. The first session made good progress, introducing the topics and the licensing process, and covered ITU, CEPT, and some of the Irish regulations. Next week the hard work starts on electrical and electronic theory. The HAREC Study Guide is almost complete, with only two out of the thirty chapters left to re-write and edit. Rafal hopes to have them ready next week,

at which point, he hopes the wider IRTS membership will help review it with a magnifying glass in hand.

Contesting

Last weekend's CQ Worldwide Contest saw over 30 EI single-ops and clubs submit their logs. The 2022 SSB CQWW will be remembered for the excellent propagation on 10m, lasting throughout the night and filling the band with SSB signals right up to 29 MHz. Next weekend the bands will be busy with three major contests, so non-contesters may need to seek refuge on the WARC bands.

The last of this year's WAE DX Contests takes place next weekend. This is the RTTY leg, it runs from next Saturday, 0000 UTC until next Sunday 2359 UTC. Unlike the SSB and CW, RTTY station can work all countries, not just intercontinental DX, but one gains extra points for inter-continental QTC traffic, where DX stations transfer real telegrams to the European stations. These telegrams contain data of previously logged QSOs. Each of these records counts one additional point for the sender and the receiver. During the WAE SSB and CW contests this procedure can be a bit of a drag, but this feature is well suited for RTTY.

Given the good propagation conditions, especially on the higher bands, one may hear stronger than expected SSB contest traffic from the JA International DX Contest, starting Saturday at 07:00 UTC, running for 30 hours until 13:00 UTC on Sunday. The exchange sent by JA stations is RST and Prefecture number, from 01 to 50, all other send RST and CQ zone number. Because the IARU Region 3 band plan differs from ours, especially for 80 and 40m, prospective participants in the JIDX contest should familiarise themselves with the rules at jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html.

CW operators can look forward to the popular Czech and Slovakian OK-OM DX Contest, it runs for 24 hours starting Saturday at 12:00 UTC. QSOs are made between OK, OL and OM stations with stations outside the two countries, making this a true DX contest. A station may be worked once on each band, from 160 to 10m. OK, OL and OM send RST and district abbreviations, EI/GI stations send RST and a serial number.

The JIDX and OK-OM contest organisers decided that in light of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and Belarus they will not accept entries by Russian and Belarusian Stations.

In preparation for the CQ WW CW Contest on the 26th and 27th of November, a number of teams and single-ops will be on air with some much sought-after prefixes. A Slovenian team will be active as TKØC in Corsica during the CQWW CW contest.

Before and after the contest, listen for the various team members using their personal calls with the TK/ prefix. Also listen for Doug, VA3DF, and Anthony, VE3RZ, operating from Grand Turk during the contest using the call-sign VP5Y. Outside the contest, Doug and Anthony will be operating mainly CW on 160-10m with the call-signs VP5/VA3DF and VP5/VE3RZ. Christopher, HB9FIY a.k.a. M0ISF, will be active as ZD7CA from St. Helena Island, IOTA reference AF-022, between now and the 26th of this month. Activity is limited to his spare time. He is using 40, 20, 17, 15 and 10 meters SSB, PSK31, RTTY and WSPR, the rig is a KX3 and KXPA100 into a vertical fan dipole. QSL goes via EA5GL. All logs will be uploaded upon his return in early December.

OPDX Editor Retires

After just under 32 years of publishing the free Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Tedd Mirgliotta KB8NW announced his retirement. Tedd, the president of the Northern Ohio DX Association, has made this free resource available on the internet. Before that, stretching to 42 years in total, he used packet clusters and international dial-up Bulletin Boards to spread DX news. The edition of October 31st, 2022 is the final bulletin, available at www.papays.com/opdx1586.html. The bulletin's webmaster, John Papay, K8YSE, said on the website that the archived issues of the bulletin will continue to be available on the EIDX Network at papays.com.

Orbital News

ARISS Europe chairman Oliver Amend DG6BCE informed that the application deadline for school contacts in the second half of 2023 has been extended until the 27th of November. The mission of the Danish astronaut Andreas Mogensen, KG5GCZ is also planned in that time frame. Application details can be found on www.ariss-eu.org. Currently, the ARISS amateur radio system in the space station's COLUMBUS module is still in transponder mode and can be used by all licensed hams as far as no scheduled radio contacts are ongoing.

The latest bulletin at www.amsat.org reported an AMSAT-constructed linear transponder module is included in the MESAT 3U satellite to be deployed as part of NASA's upcoming ELaNa 43 mission. MESAT-1 is a stack of three tech-stuffed 4-inch cubes assembled at the University of Maine and to be launched before the end of this year. MESAT-1 carries three imaging experiments and a 2-way radio for use by ground control and amateur radio. Released into a Sun-synchronous orbit about 555 kilometers above Earth, it will fly nearly over the poles travelling at about 7.8 kilometers per second, making a full orbit in roughly 100 minutes. Any given location

on Earth will experience 4 to 6 passes per day, with each pass lasting under 15 minutes. The telemetry beacon downlink will be at 435.800 MHz 1200 baud BPSK, the transponder uplink will be on 145.910-145.940 MHz with a downlink on 435.810-435.840 MHz. To take full advantage of this new satellite, a new version of FoxTelem has been released ahead of the launch of MESAT-1, allowing to decode MESAT-1 telemetry. MESAT-1 has an AMSAT Linear Transponder Module (LTM) and will transmit health data and images at 1200bps using BPSK. FoxTelem will decode and display the images from the University of Maine multi-spectral camera, as well as other data about the spacecraft. This software is available from the website of Chris GOKLA, at www.g0kla.com and information about the satellite itself is available at www.mainesat.org

The Propagation Horoscope

The CQ WW SSB contest showed that the 3000 km MUF2 did not drop below 30 MHz for most days of last week, but geomagnetic instability dampened propagation in the past three days. The planetary k index peaked at 5 on Thursday, currently dropping back towards 2. The X-ray flux levels are at B to C level, the solar wind comes at around 450 km per second, with an medium proton count. The recurrent trans-equatorial coronal hole CH1111 was Earth facing on midweek, with moderate activity. A southern hemisphere coronal hole, numbered CH1112 will rotate across the central meridian this weekend, It seems no major flares and CME's are on the cards for now. In short: these are the best propagation conditions from Topband to above 30 MHz one can hope for, there are even reports of numerous contacts on 6m via trans-equatorial paths. Check the eastern directions on 40m and above, especially before noon.

That is the news for this week. Items for inclusion in next week's radio news can be submitted by email to newsteam@irts.ie for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. The deadline is Friday noon.

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